

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

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INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (WHALEN, CHARLES AND SOLARZ, STEPHEN), UV

SUBJ: CODEL WHALEN/SOLARZ VISIT TO UPPER VOLTA, APRIL 15-16

1. DURING A 24-HOUR VISIT TO UPPER VOLTA CONGRESSMEN WHALEN AND SOLARZ HELD SIGNIFICANT DISCUSSION IN OUAGADOUGOU AND SAW FIRSTHAND A SETTLEMENT PROJECT IN THE WHITE VOLTA VALLEY.

2. SHORTLY AFTER THE CONGRESSMEN'S ARRIVAL, THE AMBASSADOR BRIEFED THEM ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION, AND THE COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER SUMMARIZED THE CURRENT AND PROPOSED AID PROGRAM.

3. AT A MEETING WITH RURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER AUGUSTIN WININGA THE CONGRESSMEN DISCUSSED THE PRIORITY NEEDS OF UPPER VOLTA'S DEVELOPMENT. MINISTER WININGA STATED THAT THE BASIC NEED IS FOR MORE WATER SO THAT VOLTAN FARMERS CAN HAVE MORE ASSURANCE OF SUCCESSFUL CROPS. SECONDLY HE LISTED AN IMPROVED ROAD NETWORK AS AN ESSENTIAL FOR AN EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

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IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM MR. SOLARZ AS TO WHETHER RAINFED OR IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE WAS CONSIDERED MORE IMPORTANT BY GOV THE MINISTER RESPONDED BY STATING THAT ULTIMATELY INCREASED PRODUCTION MUST DEPEND ON AN EXPANSION OF IRRIGATION. MR. SOLARZ ALSO ASKED THE MINISTER ON WHAT BASIS HE THOUGHT UPPER VOLTA COULD MEET ITS GOAL OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FOOD. MINISTER WININGA SAID THAT HE BASED HIS BELIEF ON THE STRONG AND HARD-WORKING

DETERMINATION OF THE VOLTAIC PEOPLE AND ON THE FACT THAT LOCAL SOILS ARE RELATIVELY FERTILE.

4. THE CONGRESSMEN ALSO MET WITH ALY CISSE, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF CILSS (COMITE INTER-ETATS DE LUTTE CONTRE LA SECHERESSE DANS LE SAHEL. IN AN EXTENDED SERIES OF QUESTIONS CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ INQUIRED OF MR. CISSE ABOUT THE PLANS OF THE CILSS AND CLUB DES AMIS DU SAHEL. FIRST HE INQUIRED HOW LONG THE SAHEL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (SDP) WAS BEING PLANNED TO LAST. MR. CISSE EXPLAINED THAT THE BASIC STRATEGIES WERE BEING OUTLINED TO YEAR 2000, BUT THAT PROJECTS WOULD BE IN THREE PHASES WITH THE FIRST PHASE EXTENDING FROM NOW TO APPROXIMATELY 1982. MR. SOLARZ SAID HE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THE ENTIRE PROJECT WOULD BE DOLS 10 BILLION FOR TEN YEARS AND NOT FOR THE REST OF THE CENTURY. HE ASKED HOW THIS AMOUNT HAD BEEN ESTIMATED SINCE PROJECT PROPOSALS WERE NOT YET COMPLETED FOR THAT PERIOD. MR. CISSE SAID THAT THE CILSS HAD STARTED IN 1973 WITH WHAT WAS CALLED THE OUAGADOUGOU COMPENDIUM, A LISTING OF PROJECTS COSTING THEN ABOUT 200 BILLION CFA (US DOLS 800 MILLION). SINCE THEN MANY REGIONAL AND NATIONAL PROJECTS HAVE BEEN ADDED TO REACH THIS TOTAL. HE SAID THE CLUB WORKING GROUP HAD PREPARED 200 PROJECTS OF WHICH ABOUT ONE QUARTER WERE REGIONAL PROJECTS AND THE REMAINDER NATIONAL. THIS LIST WOULD BE PARED DOWN AT THE CILSS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING THE NEXT WEEK AND THEN WOULD BE READY FOR PRESENTATION TO THE CLUB MEETING IN OTTAWA AT THE END OF MAY. MR. SOLARZ REPEATED TO MR. CISSE THE QUESTION HE HAD POSED TO THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT, I.E. ON WHAT BASIS DID HE BELIEVE THE SAHEL COULD BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT IN FOOD PRODUCTION BY 2000. MR. CISSE REPLIED THAT INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS, CONFIRMED BY THE SAHELIAN NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICES, HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SAID IT COULD BE DONE. HE POINTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SEEDS WITH A SHORTER GROWING SEASON, INCREASED USE OF FERTILIZER, MORE EFFECTIVE FIGHTING AGAINST PESTS AND THE OPENING OF NEW LANDS, SUCH AS THE ONCHO-PLAGUED RIVER VALLEYS AS ELEMENTS SUPPORTING THIS CONCLUSION. MR. SOLARZ CONCLUDED BY ASKING IF THE SAHEL STATES HAD A COMMON MARKET SYSTEM AND INQUIRING IF MR. CISSE DID NOT THINK THE ELIMINATION OF RESTRICTIVE TARIFFS WAS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN PROMOTING REGIONAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY. MR. CISSE SAID HE CERTAINLY AGREED WITH THE NEED FOR A COMMON MARKET. HE ADDED THAT, WHILE UNFORTUNATELY ONE DID NOT EXIST AT PRESENT

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8,:43- 8,&)6 :)9 3 :99034-589, -.9,& 5#3 -#3)8-, TATES AND THAT
IT WAS QUITE LIELY THAT THIS WOULD LEAD TO THE TYPE OF COMMON MARKET SYSTEM CONDUCIVE TO REGIONAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

5. BOTH MINISTER WININGA AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY CISSE WERE AT THE DINNER IN THE CONGRESSMEN'S HONOR AT THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE THAT EVENING. THIS ALLOWED THE CONGRESSMEN TO CONTINUE

THE CONVERSATIONS OF THE AFTERNOON. THE MINSTER OF PLAN PATRICE OUATTARA ALSO ATTENDED.

6. AFTER DINNER THE GROUP VIEWED THE FILM "PLAQUE UPON THE LAND" WHICH DESCRIBES THE PROBLEM OF ONCHOCERCIASIS AND THE ATTEMPTS TO CONTROL THIS DISEASE. TWO OFFICIALS OF THE ONCHOCERCIASIS CONTROL PROGRAM ALSO ATTENDED AND WERE ABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AND GIVE FURTHER EXPLANATIONS OF THE PROGRAM WHICH IS OPENING LARGE AREAS OF FERTILE RIVER VALLEY LAND FOR RESETTLEMENT.

7. DURING THE MORNING OF APRIL 16 THE CONGRESSMEN VISITED MOGTEDO, A SETTLEMENT PROJECT IN AN ONCHOCERCIASIS-FREED AREA IN THE VALLEY OF THE WHITE VOLTA RIVER. THEY TRAVELED THERE WITH SIMEON SORGHO, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE VOLTA VALLEY AUTHORITY, WHO EXPLAINED THE VARIOUS FACETS OF THE RESETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN THE VALLEYS OF THE THREE VOLTA RIVERS. AT THE VILLAGE CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ TOOK PARTICULAR INTEREST

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IN TALKING WITH PEOPLE IN AN ADULT LITERACY CENTER.

8. BACK IN OUAGADOUGOU THE CONGRESSMEN HAD LUNCH WITH MICHAEL WEIST, DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES FOR UPPER VOLTA. THEY DISCUSSED THE PROGRAM THAT FURNISHES MEALS TO 70,000 PRESCHOOL CHILDREN.

9. THE CONGRESSMEN TOOK THE AFTERNOON FLIGHT TO DAKAR, TO CONNECT WITH A FLIGHT BRINGING THEM TO AN ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK CITY TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AFTER LEAVING MOGTEDO IN THE WHITE VOLTA VALLEY.

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